

NIC

They gape at rich revenues which you hold,
And fain would nibble at your grandame gold.
But if you would be nibbling, here is a hand to stay your
stomach. *Dryden.*
Plunging himself in mud, and then lifting up his head a
little, he casts out the said string; which the little fishes
taking for a worm, and nibbling at it, he immediately plucks
them both in together. *Grew's Museum.*
2. To carp at; to find fault with.
Instead of returning a full answer to my book, he mani-
festly falls a nibbling at one single passage in it. *Tillot. Pref.*
NIBBLER. *n. f.* [from nibble.] One that bites by little at a time.
NICE. *adj.* [nece, Saxon, soft.]
1. Accurate in judgment to minute exactness; superfluously
exact. It is often used to express a culpable delicacy.
Such a man was Argalus, as hardly the nicest eye can find
a spot in. *Sidney.*
He that stands upon a slippery place,
Makes nice of no vile hold to stay him up. *Sho. K. John.*
Nor be so nice in taste myself to know,
If what I swallow be a thrush or no. *Dryd. Persius.*
Thus critics, of less judgment than caprice,
Curious, not knowing, not exact, but nice,
Form short ideas, and offend in arts,
As most in manners, by a love to parts. *Pope on Crit.*
Our author, happy in a judge so nice,
Produce his play, and begg'd the knight's advice. *Pope.*
2. Delicate; scrupulously and minutely cautious.
The letter was not nice, but full of charge.
Of dear import. *Shakef. Romeo and Juliet.*
Dear love! continue nice and chaste;
For if you yield, you do me wrong;
Let duller wits to love's end haste,
I have enough to woo thee long. *Donne.*
Of honour men at first like women nice,
Raise maiden scruples at unpractis'd vice. *E. Hallifax.*
Having been compiled by Gratian, in an ignorant age, we
ought not to be too nice in examining it. *Baker*
3. Fastidious; squeamish.
God hath here
Varied his bounty to with new delights,
As may compare with heaven; and to taste,
Think not I shall be nice. *Milt. Par. Lost.*
4. Easily injured; delicate.
With how much ease is a young muse betray'd?
How nice the reputation of the maid? *Roscommon.*
5. Formed with minute exactness.
Indulge me but in love, my other passions
Shall rise and fall by virtue's nicest rules. *Addison's Cato.*
6. Requiring scrupulous exactness.
Supposing an injury done, it is a nice point to proportion
the reparation to the degree of the indignity. *L'Estrange.*
My progress in making this nice and troublesome experi-
ment, I have set down more at large. *Newton's Opt.*
7. Refined.
A nice and subtle happiness I see
Thou to thyself proposest, in the choice
Of thy associates, Adam; and wilt taste
No pleasure, tho' in pleasure solitary. *Milt. P. Lost.*
8. Having lucky hits. This signification is not in use.
When my hours
Were nice and lucky, men did ransom lives
Of me for jests. *Shakef. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
NICELY. *adv.* [from nice.]
1. Accurately; minutely; scrupulously.
These kind of knaves in this plainness
Harbour more craft, and more corrupter ends,
Than twenty silky ducking observants
That stretch their duties nicely. *Shakefpeare's K. Lear.*
What mean those ladies which, as tho'
They were to take a clock to pieces, go
So nicely about the bride? *Donne.*
He ought to study the grammar of his own tongue, that
he may understand his own country-speech nicely, and speak
it properly. *Locke.*
The next thing of which the dozes ought to be nicely de-
termined, are opiates. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
At nicely carving shew thy wit;
But ne'er presume to eat a bit. *Swift's Miscell.*
2. Delicately.
The inconveniences attending the best of governments,
we quickly feel, and are nicely sensible of the share that we
bear in them. *Atterbury.*
NICESS. *n. f.* [from nice.]
1. Accuracy; minute exactness.
Where's now that labour'd niceness in thy dress,
And all those arts that did the spark express. *Dryden.*
2. Superfluous delicacy or exactness.
A strange niceness were it in me to refrain that from the
ears of a person representing so much worthiness, which I
am glad even to rocks and woods to utter. *Sidney.*

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Unlike the niceness of our modern dames,
Affected nymphs, with new affected names. *Dryden.*
Nor place them where
Roast crabs offend the niceness of their nose. *Dryden.*
NICEITY. *n. f.* [from nice.]
1. Minute accuracy of thought.
Nor was this nicety of his judgment confined only to litera-
ture, but was the same in all other parts of art. *Prior.*
2. Accurate performance.
As for the workmanship of the old Roman pillars, the
ancients have not kept to the nicety of proportion and the
rules of art so much as the moderns. *Addison on Italy.*
3. Fastidious delicacy; squeamishness.
He them with speeches meet
Does fair intreat; no courting nicety,
But simple true, and eke unfeigned sweet. *Fairy Q.*
So love doth loath disdainful nicety. *Shenker.*
4. Minute observation; punctilious discrimination; subtilty.
If reputation attend these conquests, which depend on the
fineness and niceties of words, it is no wonder if the wit of
men so employed, should perplex and subtilize the signifi-
cation of sounds. *Locke.*
His conclusions are not built upon any niceties, or solitary
and uncommon appearances, but on the most simple and
obvious circumstances of these terrestrial bodies. *Woodie.*
5. Delicate management; cautious treatment.
Love such nicety requires,
One blast will put out all his fires. *Swift's Poem.*
6. Effeminate softness.
7. Niceties, in the plural, is generally applied to dainties or
delicacies in eating.
NICHAR. *n. f.*
The characters are: it hath a polypetalous or a monope-
talous flower, cut very deeply into several segments, but is
almost of an anomalous figure; from whose calyx arises the
pointal, which afterwards becomes a pod, beset all over with
prickles, in which are contained one or two round hard seeds.
Miller.
NICHE. *n. f.* [French.] A hollow in which a statue may
be placed.
Niches, containing figures of white stone or marble, should
not be coloured in their concavity too black.
They not from temples, nor from gods refrain,
But the poor lares from the niches seize,
If they be little images that please. *Dryden.*
On the fourth a long majestic race
Of Egypt's priests, the gilded niches grace. *Pope.*
The heirs to titles and large estates are well enough qua-
lified to read pamphlets against religion and high-living;
whereby they fill their niches, and carry themselves through
the world with that dignity which best becomes a senator
and a squire. *Swift's Miscellany.*
NICK. *n. f.* [nick, Teutonic, the twinkling of an eye.]
1. Exact point of time at which there is necessity or convenience.
That great instrument of state had foreknowledge of it,
but suffered the fatal thread to be spun out to that length
for some political respects, and then to cut it off in the very
nick. *Horwell's Vocal Parody.*
What in our watches that in us is found,
So to the height and nick we up be wound,
No matter by what hand or trick.
That trick,
Had it come in the nick,
Had touch'd us to the quick. *Denham.*
Though dame fortune seem to smile,
And leer upon him for a while;
She'll after shew him in the nick
Of all his glories a dog trick. *Hudibras, p. i. cont. 3.*
And some with symbols, signs, and tricks,
Engraved in planetary nicks,
With their own influences will fetch them
Down from their orbs, arrest and catch them. *Hud.*
This nick of time is the critical occasion for the gaining
of a point. *L'Estrange.*
2. A notch cut in any thing. [Corrupted from neck or notch.]
3. A score; a reckoning.
Lance his man told me, he lov'd her art of all nick. *Shak.*
4. A winning throw. [niche, Fr. a ludicrous trick.]
Come, seven's the main,
Cries Ganymede; the usual trick
Seven, slur a six, eleven a nick. *Prior.*
To NICK. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To hit; to touch luckily; to perform by some slight artifice
used at the lucky moment.
Is not the winding up of witness
A nicking more than half the bus'ness? *Hudibras, p. ii.*
The just season of doing things must be nick'd, and all ac-
cidents improved. *L'Estrange, Fable 38.*
Take away passion while it is predominant and aloof, and
just in the critical height of it, nick it with some lucky or unlucky
word, and you may certainly over-rule it. *South.*
2. To cut in nicks or notches. *His*

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His beard they have sing'd off with brands of fire;
And ever as it blaz'd they threw on him
Great pails of puddled mire to quench the hair.
My master preaches patience, and the while
His man with scillars nicks him like a fool. *Shakefpeare.*
Breaks watchmen's heads, and chairmen's glaffes,
And thence proceeds to nicking fashies. *Prior.*
3. To suit, as tallies cut in nicks.
Words nicking and resembling one another, are applicable
to different significations. *Candem's Remains.*
4. To defeat or cozen, as at dice; to disappoint by some trick
or unexpected turn.
Why should he follow you?
The itch of his affection should not then
Have nick'd his captainship, at such a point. *Shakefpeare.*
NICKNAME. *n. f.* [nom de nique, French.] A name given in
scorn or contempt; a term of derision; an opprobrious or con-
temptuous appellation.
The time was when men were had in price for learning;
now letters only make men vile. He is upbraidingly called
a poet, as if it were a contemptible nickname. *Ben. Johnson.*
My mortal enemy hath not only falsely furnished me to be
a feigned person, giving me nicknames, but also hath offered
large sums of money to corrupt the princes with whom I
have been retained. *Bacon's Hen. VII.*
So long as her tongue was at liberty, there was not a
word to be got from her, but the same nickname in derision.
L'Estrange.
To NICKNAME. *v. a.* To call by an opprobrious appellation.
You nickname virtue vice;
For virtue's office never breaks men's troth. *Shakef.*
Let's seem these facts which treasons nickname force,
Than such a fear'd ability for more. *Denham.*
To NICKNAME. *v. a.* [nick, Latin.] To wink.
There are several parts peculiar to brutes, which are want-
ing in man; as the seventh or suspensory muscle of the eye,
the nictitating membrane, and the strong aponeuroses on the
sides of the neck. *Roy.*
NIDE. *n. f.* [nidus, Lat.] A brood; as, a nide of pheasants.
NIDGET. *n. f.* [corrupted from niding or niding.] The op-
probrious term with which the man was anciently branded
who refused to come to the royal standard in times of exi-
gency. A coward; a dastard.
There was one true English word of greater force than
them all, now out of all use; it signifieth no more than ab-
ject, bafeminded, false-hearted, coward, or nidget. *Candem.*
NIDIFICATION. *n. f.* [nidificatio, Latin.] The act of build-
ing nests.
That place, and that method of nidification, doth abun-
dantly answer the creature's occasions. *Derham.*
NIDING. *adj.* [from nide, Saxon, violence.]
Niding, an old English word signifying abject, base-minded,
false-hearted, coward, or nidget. *Carver.*
NIDOROUS. *adj.* [nidoreus, from nider.] Resembling the smell
or taste of roasted fat.
Incent and nidorous smells, such as of sacrifices, were
thought to intoxicate the brain, and to dispose men to de-
votion; which they may do by a kind of contamination of
the spirits, and partly also by heating and exalting them. *Bac.*
The signs of the functions of the stomach being depraved,
are eruptions either with the taste of the aliment, acid,
nidoreus, or fetid, resembling the taste of rotten eggs.
Arbutnot on Aliments.
NIDOROSITY. *n. f.* [from nidoreus.] Eruetion with the
taste of undigested roast-meat.
The cure of this nidoreus is, by vomiting and purging.
NIDULATION. *n. f.* [nidulor, Latin.] The time of remain-
ing in the nest.
The ground of this popular practice might be the com-
mon opinion concerning the virtue prognostic of these birds,
the natural regard they have unto the winds, and they unto
them again, more especially remarkable in the time of their
nidulation, and bringing forth their young. *Brown's V. Err.*
NIECE. *n. f.* [niece, niepee, French; neptis, Latin.] The
daughter of a brother or sister.
My niece Plantagenet,
Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloster. *Sho. R. III.*
While he thus his niece bestows,
About our life he builds a wall.
NIGGARD. *n. f.* [nigger, Islandick.] A miser; a curmud-
geon; a fard, avaricious, parsimonious fellow.
If thou do, then let thy bed be turned from fine gravel to
weeds or mud. If thou do, let some unjust niggards make
wrecks to spoil thy beauty. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Be not a niggard of your speech. *Shakef. Macbeth.*
Serve him as a grudging matter,
As a penurious niggard of his wealth.
Be niggards of advice on no pretence;
For the worst avarice is that of sense. *Milton's Poems.*
NIGGARD. *adj.*
1. Sordid; avaricious; parsimonious. *Pope on Crit.*

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One she found
With all the gifts of bounteous nature crown'd,
Of gentle blood; but one whole niggard fate
Had let him far below her high estate. *Dryden.*
2. Sparing; wary.
Most free of question, but to our demands
Niggard in his reply. *Shakefpeare's Hamlet.*
To NIGGARD. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To stint.
The deep of night is crept upon our talk,
And nature must obey necessity;
Which we will niggard with a little rest. *Shakefpeare.*
NIGGARDISH. *adj.* [from niggard.] Having some disposition
to avarice.
NIGGARDLINESS. *n. f.* [from niggardly.] Avarice; sordid
parsimony.
Niggardliness is not good husbandry, nor generosity, pro-
fusion. *Addison's Spectator, N. 443.*
NIGGARDLY. *adj.* [from niggard.]
1. Avaricious; sordidly parsimonious.
Where the owner of the house will be bountiful, it is not
for the steward to be niggardly. *Hall.*
Love is like a penurious god, very niggardly of his oppor-
tunities: he must be watched like a hard-hearted treasurer.
Dryden's Spanish Prior.
Why are we to niggardly to stop at one fifth? Why do we
not raise it one full moiety, and thereby double our money?
Locke.
Providence not niggardly but wife,
Here lavishly bestows, and there denies,
That by each other's virtues we may rise. *Granvil.*
Tiberius was noted for his niggardly temper; he used only
to give to his attendants their diet. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
2. Sparing; wary.
I know your mind, and I will satisfy it; neither will I do
it like a niggardly answerer, going no farther than the bounds
of the question. *Sidney.*
NIGGARDLY. *adv.* Sparingly; parsimoniously.
I have long loved her, followed her, ingross'd opportu-
nities to meet her; feed every slight occasion that could but
niggardly give me sight of her. *Shakef. M. W. of Windsor.*
NIGGARDNESS. *n. f.* [from niggard.] Avarice; sordid par-
simony.
All preparations, both for food and lodging, such as would
make one detect niggardness, it is so flutish a vice. *Sidney.*
NIGH. *prep.* [nyb, Saxon.] At no great distance from.
They shone
Stars distant, but nigh hand seem'd other worlds. *Milton.*
Nigh this recess, with terror they survey,
Where death maintains his dread tyrannic sway. *Garth.*
NIGH. *adv.*
1. Not at a great distance.
The day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand. *Jo. ii. 1.*
He was sick nigh unto death. *Phil. ii. 27.*
2. To a place near.
He drew nigh, and to me held,
Ev'n to my mouth, of that same fruit held part
Which he had pluck'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. v.*
I will defer that anxious thought,
And death, by fear, shall not be nigher brought. *Dryd.*
NIGH. *adj.*
1. Near; not distant; not remote.
The loud tumult shews the battle nigh. *Prior.*
2. Allied closely by blood.
He committed the protection of his son Afanes to two of
his nigh kinsmen and assured friends. *Knollys.*
His uncle or uncle's son, or any that is nigh of kin unto
him of his family, may redeem him. *Lev. xxv. 49.*
His sister a virgin, that is nigh unto him. *Lev. xxi. 3.*
To NIGH. *v. n.* [from the participle.] To approach; to ad-
vance; to draw near.
Now day is done, and night is nighing fast. *Hubberd.*
NIGHLY. *adv.* [from nigh the adjective.] Nearly; within a
little.
A man born blind, now adult, was taught by his touch
to distinguish between a cube and a sphere of the same me-
tal, and nighly of the same bigness. *Locke.*
NIGHNESS. *n. f.* [from nigh.] Nearness; proximity.
NIGHT. *n. f.* [nauts, Gothick; nyct, Saxon; nuit, Fr.]
1. The time of darkness; the time from sun-set to sun-rise.
The duke of Cornwall, and Regan his dutchess, will be
here this night. *Shakefpeare's K. Lear.*
In the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night di-
vide the spoil. *Gen. xix. 27.*
Pharaoh rose up in the night. *Exodus xii. 30.*
They did eat and drink, and tarried all night. *Gen. xxiv. 54.*
Till this stormy night be gone,
And th' eternal morrow dawn,
Then the curtains will be drawn;
And they waken with that light,
Whose day shall never sleep in night. *Crashaw.*
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